



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULT ON OFFICER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to assaulting a federal law enforcement officer during a vehicle pursuit.

Christopher J. Cooper, 20, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge John T. Maughmer this afternoon.

By pleading guilty, **Cooper** admitted that he assaulted, resisted and impeded a federal law enforcement officer by use of force or a deadly and dangerous weapon on Feb. 9, 2005, in Kansas City. Specifically, **Cooper** admitted that he was driving a 1991 Chevrolet Caprice and used the vehicle to assault, resist and impede a federal law enforcement officer who was attempting to arrest him.

The law enforcement officer was attempting to apprehend **Cooper** in the vicinity of 4240 Holly St. and Westport Road when the assault occurred. At the time, law enforcement officers had used their vehicles to surround **Cooper's** vehicle. Once surrounded, **Cooper** used the vehicle to evade arrest causing the officers to avoid being struck by running out of its path. During his attempts, **Cooper** struck a fire hydrant and backed into a brick wall narrowly missing each of the officers on several occasions.

Cooper was eventually stopped after driving the vehicle over stop sticks that officers had placed in the street near the intersection of 35th and Wabash.

Cooper's encounter with law enforcement was initiated while officers were engaged in a surveillance of the defendant, Graves explained.

Cooper was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Feb. 10, 2005, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on March 2, 2005, in Kansas City.

Under federal law, **Cooper** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow